

Listing of Claims

1. - 40. (canceled)

1 41. (previously added) A method for using a screen assembly on a vibratory
2 separator, the vibratory separator having a deck with an upstanding member, the
3 screen assembly having a plurality of layers of screening material, the plurality of
4 layers of screening material connected together and secured to a frame, the frame
5 comprising two ends, each end connected to and spaced-apart by one of two spaced-
6 apart sides, the two spaced-apart sides including a first side and a second side and the
7 frame including a plurality of spaced-apart crossmembers, each crossmember
8 extending from the first side to the second side, wherein at least one of the plurality
9 of spaced-apart crossmembers has at least one notch for receiving a portion of the
10 upstanding member of the deck of the vibratory separator, the method comprising

11 installing the screen assembly on the deck of the vibratory
12 separator with a portion of the upstanding member projecting into the at least
13 one notch to facilitate correct and stable emplacement of the screen assembly
14 on the deck and,

15 vibrating the screen assembly with the vibratory separator, and
16 feeding material to be treated onto the screen assembly.

1 42. (previously added) A method for using a screen assembly on a vibratory
2 separator, the vibratory separator having a deck with an upstanding member, the
3 screen assembly having a plurality of layers of screening material, the plurality of
4 layers of screening material connected together and secured to a frame, the frame
5 comprising two ends, each end connected to and spaced-apart by one of two spaced-
6 apart sides, the two spaced-apart sides including a first side and a second side and the
7 frame including a plurality of spaced-apart crossmembers, each crossmember
8 extending from the first side to the second side, wherein the frame has at least one
9 notch for receiving a portion of the upstanding member of the deck of the vibratory
10 separator, the method comprising

11 installing the screen assembly on the deck of the vibratory

separator with a portion of the upstanding member projecting into the at least one notch to facilitate correct and stable emplacement of the screen assembly on the deck and,

vibrating the screen assembly with the vibratory separator, and feeding material to be treated onto the screen assembly.

43. (new) A method for using a screen assembly on a vibratory separator, the screen assembly having non-flat areas of screening material thereon, the non-flat areas of screening material comprising rippled areas of screening material between lines of glue gluing together a plurality of layers of screening material, the plurality of glued-together layers of screening material secured to a frame, the frame comprising two ends, each end connected to and spaced-apart by one of two spaced-apart sides, the two spaced-apart sides including a first side and a second side and the frame including a plurality of spaced-apart crossmembers, each crossmember extending from the first side to the second side, the method comprising

mounting the screen assembly on a vibratory separator, the vibratory separator located in an environment at an ambient temperature,

vibrating the screen assembly with the vibratory separator for a period of time,

feeding material to be treated onto the screen assembly, the material to be treated at a material temperature above the ambient temperature, the period of time of such a temporal length and the material temperature of such a temperature to effect flattening of the non-flat areas of screening material.

44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the material temperature is at least five degrees above the ambient temperature.

45. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the material temperature is at least 100°F.

46. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the material is drilling fluid from a drilled wellbore, the drilling fluid having solid drilled cuttings therein.

47. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glue is cured moisture-curing hot melt glue.

1 48. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glue is applied in a pattern.

1 49. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the ends and sides are tubular
2 members.

1 50. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glued-together layers of
2 screening material are secured to the frame with epoxy.

1 51. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glued-together layers of
2 screening material are secured to the frame with glue.

1 52. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glued-together layers of
2 screening material are secured to the spaced-apart crossmembers with epoxy.

1 53. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the glued-together layers of
2 screening material are secured to the spaced-apart crossmembers with glue.

1 54. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 spaced-apart crossmembers has at least one notch for receiving a portion of an
3 upstanding member of a deck of the vibratory separator, the method further
4 comprising

5 installing the screen assembly on the deck of the vibratory
6 separator with a portion of the upstanding member projecting into the at least
7 one notch.

1 55. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the plurality of layers of screening
2 material comprises at least a lower layer of coarse mesh and at least one layer of fine
3 mesh.

1 56. (new) The method of claim 55 wherein the non-flat areas of screening
2 material comprise portions of the at least one layer of fine mesh.

1 57. (new) A method for using a screen assembly on a vibratory separator, the
2 screen assembly having non-flat areas of screening material, the non-flat areas of
3 screening material between lines of glue gluing together a plurality of layers of
4 screening material, the plurality of glued-together layers of screening material secured
5 to a frame, the glue comprising moisture-curing hot melt glue, the method comprising

6 mounting the screen assembly on a vibratory separator, the
7 vibratory separator located in an environment at an ambient temperature,
8 vibrating the screen assembly with the vibratory separator for a

9 period of time,

10 feeding material to be treated onto the screen assembly, the
11 material to be treated at a material temperature above the ambient temperature,
12 the period of time of such a temporal length and the material
13 temperature of such a temperature to effect flattening of the non-flat areas of
14 screening material.

1 58. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the lines of glue are in a glue
2 pattern on at least one layer of the screening material in an amount sufficient so that
3 said screen assembly while in use on the vibratory separator is able to withstand
4 vibratory forces imparted thereto by the vibration apparatus of the vibratory separator.

1 59. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the material is drilling fluid from a
2 drilled wellbore, the drilling fluid having solid drilled cuttings therein.

1 60. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the frame is comprised of two
2 ends, each end connected to and spaced-apart by one of two spaced-apart sides,
3 wherein the ends and sides are tubular members, and wherein the two spaced-apart
4 sides include a first side and a second side and the frame includes a plurality of
5 spaced-apart crossmembers, each crossmember extending from the first side to the
6 second side.

1 60. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 spaced-apart crossmembers has at least one notch for receiving a portion of an
3 upstanding member of a deck of the vibratory separator, the method further
4 comprising

5 installing the screen assembly on the deck of the vibratory
6 separator with a portion of the upstanding member projecting into the at least
7 one notch.

8 REMARKS

9 Claims 22 - 42 have been rejected for various reasons under §§ 103 and 112.
10 Claims 22 - 40 have been cancelled and new claims are submitted herewith
11 corresponding to these now cancelled claims. Applicants believe claims 41 and 42
12 define patentable subject matter and present arguments here to establish that these
13 claims should be allowed.

14 § 112 Rejection

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16 Claim 37, rejected for mixing classes under § 112 has been cancelled. New claim 58,
17 corresponding roughly to now cancelled claim 37, no longer recites a method of
18 production.

19 § 103 Rejection

20 Claims 22 - 27, 29 - 35 and 41 - 42 have been rejected under § 103 based on
21 Baltzer et al ("Baltzer"; U.S. 5,967,336). These claims have been canceled. New
22 independent claim 43 presented here recites that the non-flat areas of screening
23 material are rippled (see, e.g., text of the Specification at page 6, line 16).

24 Baltzer '336 has no teaching or suggestion regarding rippled non-flat areas of
25 screening material and no mention of or recognition of this problem addressed by the
26 present invention. Baltzer deals solely with a frame with a planar surface on which
27 is placed a flat plate. Flat layers of screening material are placed on the flat plate.

28 Claims 41, 42

29 Claims 41 and 42 (submitted here unamended) require use with a deck of a
30 vibratory separator which has "an upstanding member" which projects into a
31 corresponding notch on a screen assembly placed on the deck.

32 The Office Action, bottom of Page 5 (and § 4, Page 7), refers to the "clip (22)"

33 of Baltzer '336 in rejecting claims 40 - 42. Baltzer's clip 22 is not used to receive an
34 upstanding member of a deck; rather it is used to receive an end 18 of another screen
35 assembly (or a corresponding part of "vibrating screen machinery"). The clip 22 has
36 an opening that extends generally horizontally. It is impossible for this opening to
37 receive an upstanding member projecting upwardly from a deck.

38 Applicants note that Baltzer '336 nowhere recognizes or addresses problems
39 with correct and stable mounting of a screen assembly on a deck as are addressed by
40 the subject matter of claims 41 and 42 (and of new claim 61).

41 Applicants respectfully submit that the claims discussed above define
42 nonobvious subject matter which is patentable with respect to the cited art and any
43 possible legal combination thereof.

44 Claims 28, 39

45 Claims 28 and 39, rejected under § 103 based on Baltzer (U.S. 6,439,392),
46 have been cancelled. New claims 49 and 60, corresponding to the now-cancelled
47 claims, depend from new independent claim 43 and are deemed, therefore, to be
48 patentable for the same reasons as discussed above regarding new claim 43 (these
49 reasons repeated here).

50 As with the Baltzer '336 reference, Applicants submit that the Baltzer '392
51 reference has no teaching or suggestion of a screen assembly with rippled non-flat
52 areas of screening material. Also, as with the Baltzer '336 reference, Baltzer '392
53 does not address, and has no recognition of, problems encountered with rippled non-
54 flat areas of screening material.

55 Applicants respectfully submit that the claims discussed above define
56 nonobvious subject matter which is patentable with respect to the cited art and any
57 possible legal combination thereof.

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Conclusion

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Applicants appreciate the careful and detailed Office Action. This is intended to be a complete Response to the Office Action. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

19 June 04

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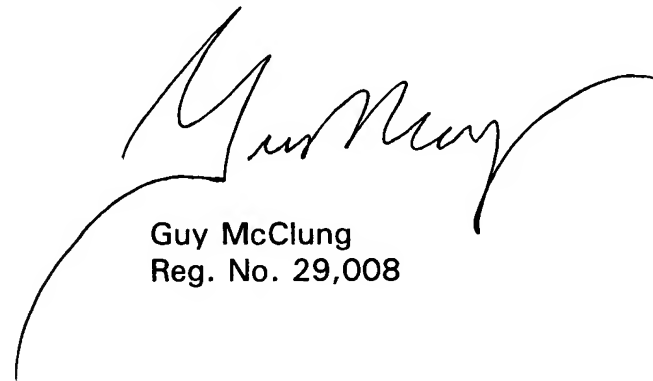
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